GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:751
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000
POWER PILFERAGE IN ANDHRA PRADESH
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale power pilferage in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has been urged to check power pilferage;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued ordinance to check the power pilferage;

(d) if so, whether number of measures have been taken by the State Government to reduce power transmission and distribution losses; and

(e) if so, to what extent the Ordinance issued and the measures taken to help the State in improving the power position?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. The power pilferage in Andhra Pradesh is assessed to be high. The State Government is considering to bring out a legislation to amend the provisions of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 to provide for more deterrent punishments and for setting up special courts/tribunals for speedy trial of theft of energy cases so as to curb theft of energy. The proposed legislation is expected to act as a serious deterrent for those who resort to theft of energy and will help the State in achieving the objective of eradicating theft of energy and thereby improve the revenues of Electricity Utilities and ensure better power supply to the consumers.

The State Government has taken up the measures forreform of entire power sector to ensure efficient and economic power supply in the State. For this purpose, the A.P. Electricity Reform Act was enacted in 1998, and an independent autonomous Regulatory Commission was established on 31.3.1999. The Commission has the statutory powers to enforce implementation of its directives and orders. The Commission has directed APTRANSCO to improve metered sales and to intensify the raids to check pilferage of energy. The measures taken are expected to reduce the losses and improve the revenues.